

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

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DRAFTED BY NEA/CYP:TDBOYATT:MJB

APPROVED BY NEA - RODGER P. DAVIES

NEA/TUR - MR. DILLON

NEA/GRK - MR. DAY

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P R 071405Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 002516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: ALLEGED GOC ARMS IMPORTS

REF: A. ATHENS 0057; B. ANKARA 0085

1. FROM HERE IT APPEARS THAT RECENT SPATE OF RUMORS CONCERNING GOC ARMS IMPORTS AND DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY BY OURSELVES, UN SPECIAL REP AND OTHERS HAVE ALREADY FANNED THIS ISSUE BEYOND HELPFUL LEVELS. OUR APPROACH HAS BEEN BASED ON SINGLE REPORT WHICH, THOUGH POSSIBLY ACCURATE, HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY SOLID VISUAL EVIDENCE. IN ADDITION, MAKARIOS' CONTINUED DENIAL OF ANY ARMS IMPORTS INDICATES THAT HE AT LEAST IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT ARMS--IF ANY-- WILL NOT BE DISCOVERED.

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2. US, UK AND UN DEMARCHES TO MAKARIOS REGARDING ARMS

IMPORTS MAY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN PREVENTING OR REDUCING THE IMPORT OF CZECH ARMS, OR AT LEAST IN MAKING MAKARIOS MORE CAREFUL. AT THIS STAGE, HOWEVER, WE ARE PRESENTED WITH A SITUATION QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE 1966 AND 1972 CZECH ARMS CAPERS IN THAT NOBODY HAS BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED. WE DO NOT KNOW THAT THERE ARE ARMS FOR THE UN TO SEQUESTER. NICOSIA REPORTS THAT THE SNAPPERS HAVE BEEN THERE FOR SOME YEARS; THE BRITISH HAVE TOLD THE TURKS THAT THE SNAPPERS WERE LEFT BY THE GREEK ARMY IN 1968.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION WE BELIEVE THAT METAXAS OF GOG FONMIN HAS GOOD POINT THAT FURTHER AGITATION OF ISSUE, LACKING SOLID EVIDENCE, WILL HAVE DISTURBING EFFECT ON ISLAND AND PROBABLY STIMULATE STRONG GOT REACTION.

4. HAVING MADE OUR POINT TO MAKARIOS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES FURTHER DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE AIMED AT DAMPENING AND QUIETING THE SITUATION. TO THIS END EMBASSIES ATHENS AND ANKARA ARE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO THEIR INTERLOCUTORS:

- A. USG IS AWARE OF REPORTS AND RUMORS OF GOC ARMS IMPORTS.
- B. WHILE WE HAVE NO SOLID CONFIRMATION OF SUCH IMPORTS, WE ARE CONCERNED OVER PERSISTENCE OF THESE REPORTS.
- C. WE HAVE MADE OUR CONCERNS KNOWN TO THE GOC WHICH HAS DENIED ORDERING SUCH ARMS IMPORTS.
- D. WE BELIEVE NO FURTHER ACTION IS WARRANTED AT THIS TIME.
- E. FOR ANKARA: YOU SHOULD ADD THAT OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE SNAPPERS HAVE BEEN IN NATIONAL GUARD INVENTORY FOR SOME YEARS, AND WE DOUBT THAT REPORTS OF THEIR PRESENCE REPRESENT AN INCREASE IN ARMAMENT PRESENT ON THE ISLAND. KISSINGER

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